been paid by them to DESU, is progression satisfactorily.

Chucka Hydel Electric Project in Bhutan

6209. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees in the Chuckha hydel electric project in Bhutan with Indian financial aid and technical assistance was declared surplus after the completion of the project;

(b) number of employes since absorbed in the government of India establishment;

(c) how many more are likely to be absorbed from the list; and

(d) the time by which the remaining employees are likely to be absorbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). Chukha Hydro-electric Project in Bhutan, although constructed with Indian financial and technical assistance, is a project owned by the Royal Government of Bhutan. For construction of the Project, a Chukha Project Authority (CPA) was set up as an autonomous organisation of the Royal Government of Bhutan which had directly recruited a number of employees for various works on the project. One completion of the works these employees have been rendered surplus and retrenched by CPA. The retrenchement of surplus employes of Chukha Project Authority or their re-employment/absorption is, therefore, not directly the responsibility of Govt. of India.

Expansion of Nalco

6210. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the expansion proposal or the National Aluminium Company Limited; and

(b) if so, details of investment and the estimated increase in production after its expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). A proposal has been initiated for expansion of the existing capacity of national Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at an estimated cost of Rs. 2801 crores The estimated increase in production after expansion will be as follows.-

	Unit	*From*	*To*
Bauxite Mine	Million *TPY	2.4	4.8
Alumina Refinery	Million *TPY	0.8	1.35
Aluminium Smelter	Million *TYP	0.218	0.345

* TPY - Tonnes Per Year.